

NORTHWEST INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM 10
INCIDENT COMMANDER: ALAN LAWSON

Sourdough Fire Update – August 8, 2023 – 11:00 a.m.

North Cascades National Park

Fire Information Line: 360-370-4169

Email: 2023.sourdough@firenet.gov

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/warlp-sourdough-fire>

Resources: 349 Total Personnel | 6 Hand Crews | 22 Engines | 5 Water Tenders | 4 Helicopters

(Newhalem, Wash.) -- The Sourdough Fire started with a lightning strike on July 29 near Diablo in the steep and rugged terrain of Ross Lake National Recreation Area, 7 miles northeast of Newhalem. An infrared flight overnight has provided new mapping data. An estimated 1,711 acres have burned on the Sourdough Fire. Due to hazards presented by the fire, State Route 20 (North Cascades Highway) has been closed until further notice between Mile Marker 120 and Mile Marker 156, Newhalem to Rainy Pass. The safety of firefighters and the public are the top priority on the Sourdough Fire.

Yesterday: Weather conditions were favorable on Monday with cooler temperatures and higher humidity which moderated fire behavior. Efforts were on-going to strengthen State Route 20 and the powerline easement as potential containment features, and conducted fuels removal and chipping operations. Crews continued improving powerline easements for use as access or fire breaks. Portable tanks were placed along the highway providing a water source for possible suppression efforts. Firefighters also completed chipping of vegetation removed during control line construction and structure preparation in and around Diablo. This area and the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center are fully plumbed with hose lines. At Ross Lake Resort, some floating cabins were moved away from the shore where possible and crews prepared other structures in the area. The Sourdough Lookout has been defensively protected with retardant and fire-resistant structure wrap. Helicopters were used to check fire spread along Stetattle Creek to the west and Sourdough Creek to the east. Crews working the night shift monitored structures and facilities near the fire's edge, making sure these important values to the community were protected.

Today: Firefighters are continuing to prepare structures and improve containment features. Moving east of the fire's edge, crews are focusing efforts on the Big Beaver Suspension Bridge and the Green Point, Cougar, and Big Beaver campgrounds on the west side of Ross Lake. A remote aerial system (drone) and operator arrived this morning to assist fire managers with locating hot spots on the Fire. Aviation resources are available to assist firefighters as needed.

Weather: Continued cooler weather is forecast for today and there is a chance of rain tonight as a weak cold front moves into the region. Precipitation is not expected to total more than a quarter of an inch before warmer and drier conditions return.

Smoke: Smoke from the Sourdough Fire may affect communities around the region. Find information about current conditions and a smoke forecast is located at: <https://wasmoke.blogspot.com>.

Closures and Evacuations: Evacuations are in effect for the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center and the community of Diablo. State Route 20 is closed from Newhalem to Rainy Pass. Trail, area and camp closures are in effect; for more information, go to: <https://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/fire-closures.htm>

